

In the Specification

Examiner objected to the specification for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities. No new matter has been added.

Amend page 7, lines 28-29, of the specification as follows:

spinner, and in fact, ~~is not~~ may be configured to provide stationary (rather than spinning) appearance in use.

Please amend page 14, lines 20-30, as follows:

For example, turning to Figures 6 and 7, the aligning mechanism **160**, **260** functions to return the self-aligning wheel assembly **100** from a first position (shown in Figure 6A) in which the wheel spinner openings **133** and visual elements **125** are substantially misaligned, to a "home" position (shown in Figure 7) wherein the wheel spinner openings **133** and the visual elements **125** are substantially aligned. In one embodiment, the openings **133** and visual elements **125** are substantially aligned when they are substantially concentric. The openings **133** and visual elements **125** are considered to be substantially aligned when their respective perimeters are substantially aligned relative to each other as shown in Figure 7. The openings **133** and visual elements **125** are considered to be misaligned when their respective perimeters are not substantially aligned relative to each other as shown in Figure 6A. Figure 6A also shows outer perimeter or border **126** of individual visual elements **125** and central axis of rotation **131**.

Amend page 15, line 24 to page 16, line 3 as follows:

Figures 8A-8B illustrate yet another embodiment of the invention wherein the aligning mechanism **260** is triggered to substantially align the self-aligning wheel assembly **200** in response to a pre-determined condition. For example, in the depicted embodiment the aligning mechanism **260** includes an electromagnet **264**, an optical or other similar sensor **265** and a controller **266**. These components are configured for communication between one another by electrical, wireless, or other similar means. In one embodiment, an indexing mark **267** or other similar locator is provided on the

interior surface of the wheel spinner **230** as shown. Thus, in a manner that will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in light of this disclosure, the controller **266** can monitor the position of the indexing mark **267** via the sensor **265** and thereby derive the rotational velocity and relative position of the wheel spinner **230**. Figure 8A also shows rim **222**, visual elements **225**, recesses **234**, and decorative cap **250**. Figure 8B also illustrates vehicle wheel mount bolts **219**, bearing assembly **240**, bearing housing **242**, slots **246**, and bearing pin or screw **248**.

Amend page 17, lines 18-25, of the specification as follows:

As will be understood by one skilled in the art in light of this disclosure, many different mechanisms may be used to lock the spinner **330** in place relative to the wheel **320**. For example, as illustrated in Figure 9A, a selectively-locking wheel assembly **300** is depicted comprising a wheel spinner ~~**320**~~ **330**, a bearing assembly **340**, and a screw **373** or other similar fastener for selectively coupling the wheel spinner ~~**320**~~ **330** to the bearing assembly **340**. As is apparent from the detail illustration provided by Figure 9B, the bearing assembly **340** is constructed and mounted to a vehicle's wheel mount bolts **319** as described above. Figure 9A also illustrates rim **322**, openings **333**, and recesses **334**. Figure 9B also illustrates bearing housing **342**, slots **346**, decorative cap **350** and aligning mechanism **360**.

Amend page 18, lines 4-16, of the specification as follows:

Figures 10A and 10B illustrate a selectively-locking wheel assembly **400** in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention. In particular, Figure 10A illustrates a front view of a selectively-locking wheel assembly **400** according to one embodiment wherein a wheel spinner ~~**430**~~, ~~a bearing assembly **440**~~, and a wheel **420** having various visual elements **425** disposed thereon are constructed as described above. According to the depicted embodiment, a locking mechanism **470** is provided that is comprised of a cap-nut **475**. The cap-nut **475** is adapted for engaging the portion of wheel mount bolt **419** that extends through the bearing assembly **340** (see Figure 9B). The cap-nut **475** is provided in place of at least one of the above-described lug nuts (not shown). The cap-nut **475** engages a wheel mount bolt ~~**439**~~ **419** through a conventional access hole

436 of the type described above. In one embodiment, the cap-nut **475** is longer than conventional lug nuts and thus, may be seated within the access hole to restrict rotational movement of the wheel spinner **430**. Figure 10A also illustrates rim **422**, openings **433**, recesses **434**, axis of rotation **441**, and slots **446**.

Amend page 19, lines 10-11, of the specification as follows:

Accordingly, a multiple team football helmet effect may be produced for viewers of the football helmet-themed wheel assembly **500** at relatively low speeds. Figure 11 also illustrates tire **517**.